

Appl. No. 10/721,877
Amendment dated: June 9, 2006
Reply to OA of: March 10, 2006

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action of March 10, 2006. Applicants have amended the claims, taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action.

While it is acknowledged that the outstanding Official Action is a Final Rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims presented herein merely incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Official Action into the base independent claim and therefore do not raise any new issues requiring further search and consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the claims be entered and considered.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the outstanding Official Action that claims 2, 3 and 8 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 now recites that R_1 is "selected from the group consisting of cholic acid, fatty acid, folic acid and cholesterol" in place of the recitation that R_1 is "hydrogen or $-C(=O)-R_2$ ". As this amendment to claim 1 removes the reference to R_2 , the recitation that " R_2 is C_{7-30} alkyl substituted or unsubstituted with functional groups or hydrogen" in claim 1 has also been removed.

In light of the amendment to claim 1 incorporating the subject matter of claim 2, claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 3 has been canceled because claim 3 further defines R_2 , which is no longer in the claims. Claim 5 has been amended to remove the phrase " R_2 is hydrogen" because R_2 is no longer in the claims. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Finally, in order to address the objections to claims 6 and 7 set forth in the Official Action, Applicants have canceled claims 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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In light of amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the instant application are in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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June 9, 2006